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CIA: looking for a few good minds

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Ever dreamed of being a secret agent? Working for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) may be closer than you think.

In the late 1960s demonstrators here protested and held sit-ins over CIA student recruitment. But today students seem to be relatively supportive of on-campus recruiting.

"I was at Stanford on Career Day in October and had no problems," said Bill Cooley, the CIA's northwest regional recruiter. "There is interest and a certain amount of curiosity. My table was one of the busiest ones out there."

The CIA will be back on campus later this month, in a forum at Tresidder Memorial Union on Feb. 29 that will provide interviews and information concerning the agency.

"We want to hire the best, which is one reason we're coming to Stanford," said CIA Personnel Recruiter Morgan Jones. "The effort that (University President Donald) Kennedy's been making to interest students in public service is kind of what spawned the forum."

"There used to be a story out that we were restricted to the Ivy League. Maybe in the days right after World War II there were more Ivy types, but that's not true today," Jones said.

Cooley said the agency recruits for many different types of jobs.

"We recruit from a wide variety of disciplines for administrative-type work," he said. "There are a number of jobs for engineers in economic, political and military research analysis. We look for electrical engineers more than others, but also for mechanical, civil and aeronautical engineers," he said.

Jones said mainly upperclassmen will be interviewed for careers as agents.

"We will talk to underclassmen, but our main effort will be on senior and graduate-level students to work on a full-time basis," he said.

The agency looks for high grades, activities and "all the normal things" employers look for in future employees, Morgan said.

"We are looking for good, outstanding citizens. We come down very hard on drug usage," Cooley



said.

John Harris, a senior majoring in political science, has already been interviewed by CIA recruiters.

"I thought being a poli sci major, I'd have access to better information and the most chance to actually influence U.S. policy if I became a specialist in a certain area," he said.

But Harris has decided not to work for the CIA, because he said he was not qualified for the overt opera-

tions he wanted to perform and did not wish to try any of the "other avenues available."

"If you have athletic abilities or are otherwise qualified, they have no qualms about trying to funnel you in the covert direction. I had no intention of doing that," he said.

Harris also said his political activism would conflict with a CIA job. "I had been heavily politically active, and if you're working for the CIA you really have to tone down your partisan activities," he said.